

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) An absorbent article, comprising:

a chassis having a front waist region, a back waist region, and a crotch region extending between said front and back waist regions;

an outer cover member extending longitudinally between said front and back waist regions;

a bodyside liner extending longitudinally between said front and back waist regions;

an absorbent body structure sandwiched between said outer cover member and said bodyside liner;

said bodyside liner comprising a material having

an untensioned inherently extensible base layer of a fluid permeable material, said base layer extendable to at least about 125% of its original dimension in a first direction essentially without fracture of said base layer material;

at least a first and a second strip of elastomeric material wholly disposed on and attached to said base layer material to form flat planar composite regions with a space between said strips such that a center untensioned region of said base layer material is bordered on at least two longitudinally extending sides by said composite regions of said elastomeric materials and said base layer material, said center region generally disposed over said absorbent body structure; and

wherein said center region of untensioned base layer material is ~~attached~~ bonded directly to the immediately underlying portion of said absorbent body structure in registry with the center region of untensioned base layer material in its untensioned

condition and said composite regions are stretchable in at least a second direction of said absorbent article.

2. (Original) The absorbent article as in claim 1, wherein said article is one of a child's training pant, disposable diaper, incontinence article, and feminine hygiene article.

3. (Previously presented) The absorbent article as in claim 1, wherein said base layer material defines a pair of opposed lateral side edges, each of said first and second elastomeric strips defining a lateral side edge that is aligned with one of said lateral edges of said base layer material.

4. (Original) The absorbent article as in claim 1, wherein said base layer material comprises a non-woven material.

5. (Original) The absorbent article as in claim 4, wherein said non-woven material comprises a bicomponent spunbond material.

6. (Original) The absorbent article as in claim 1, wherein said first and second elastomeric materials comprise an elastic film, said films being laminated to said base layer material.

7. (Original) The absorbent article as in claim 1, wherein said first and second elastomeric materials comprise webs of elastomeric fibers.

8. (Original) The absorbent article as in claim 1, wherein said elastomeric materials are attached to said base layer material in a generally untensioned state.

9. (Original) The absorbent article as in claim 1, wherein said elastomeric materials are attached to said base layer material in a generally tensioned state.

10. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article as in claim 1, wherein said bodyside liner is a separate component from said outer cover member, said bodyside liner and said outer cover member being generally coextensive and attached along side seams of said chassis, said composite regions of said bodyside liner defining longitudinal strips on each side of said center region and extending outwardly from said center region to said respective side seams.

11. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article as in claim 10, further comprising longitudinally extending containment flaps attached to said chassis over said bodyside liner generally outboard of said absorbent body structure.

12. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article as in claim 10, wherein portions of said composite regions of said bodyside liner are folded outboard of said absorbent body structure so as to define longitudinally extending containment flaps on opposite lateral sides of said absorbent body structure.

13. (Previously presented) The absorbent article as in claim 1, wherein said composite regions of said bodyside liner define composite strips extending laterally from said center region, each of said composite strips folded to form a folded composite region at a side fold line of said chassis and extending laterally from said fold line toward said center region and having a portion disposed above and an opposed portion disposed below said absorbent body structure and attached to each other such that said folded composite regions also define said outer cover member of said chassis.

14. (Original) The absorbent article as in claim 13, further comprising leg elastics between said folded composite regions.

15. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article as in claim 13, further comprising elastomeric side panels attached to said chassis generally adjacent to said fold lines, said side panels attached at side seams to define a pant-like structure.

16. (Original) The absorbent article as in claim 13, wherein portions of said composite regions of said bodyside liner are folded outboard of said absorbent body structure so as to define longitudinally extending containment flaps on opposite lateral sides of said absorbent body structure.

17. (Previously presented) The absorbent article as in claim 13, wherein said composite regions are also attached to said absorbent body structure.

18. (Previously presented) The absorbent article as in claim 1, wherein said composite regions of said bodyside liner define longitudinal composite strips extending outwardly from said center region and defining elastomeric side panels that are attached at side seams of said chassis to define a pant-like structure, said longitudinal composite strips folded outboard of said side panels at fold lines and extending laterally back under said absorbent body structure and attached to each other such that said composite regions also define said outer cover member of said chassis.

19. (Original) The absorbent article as in claim 18, wherein said article is a child's training pant.

20. (Withdrawn) A method of producing a composite material for an absorbent article, said method comprising:

providing a base layer of inherently extensible material, the base layer extendable to a least about 125% of its original dimension in a first direction essentially without fracture of the base layer material;

superimposing and attaching a first elastomeric material along a first side of the extensible base layer material while maintaining the base layer material in a non-tensioned state, the first elastomeric material having a width that is less than the width of the base layer material;

maintaining the base layer material in an untensioned state while attaching the base layer to another generally non-extensible material such that the base layer material is rendered generally non-extensible after attachment to the other material; and

wherein a resulting composite material is formed having a region of non-extensible base layer material bordered on at least one side thereof by an extensible region, the extensible region comprising a composite of the elastomeric material and inherently extensible base layer material.

21. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 20, further comprising superimposing and attaching a second elastomeric material along a second side opposite the first side of the inherently extensible base layer material, the second elastomeric material having a width that is less than the width of the base layer material, the non-extensible region of the resulting composite material bordered on opposite sides by a composite extensible region.

22. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 21, wherein the elastomeric materials are attached to the base layer material in an untensioned state.

23. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 21, wherein the elastomeric materials are attached to the base layer material in a tensioned state.

24. (Withdrawn) The method as in claim 21, wherein the other material to which the extensible base layer material is attached is an absorbent body of an absorbent article.

25. (Currently amended) An absorbent article, comprising:

- a chassis having a front waist region, a back waist region, and a crotch region extending between said front and back waist regions;
- an outer cover member extending longitudinally between said front and back waist regions;
- a bodyside liner extending longitudinally between said front and back waist regions;
- an absorbent body structure sandwiched between said outer cover member and said bodyside liner;
- said bodyside liner comprising a material having
 - an untensioned inherently extensible base layer of a fluid permeable material, said base layer extendable to at least about 125% of its original dimension in a first direction essentially without fracture of said base layer material;
 - a strip of elastomeric material attached to said base layer material along a longitudinally extending side thereof to form a flat planar composite region and such that a first region of said base layer material is adjacent a composite region of said elastomeric material and said base layer material, said first region of base layer material that is adjacent said composite region is also generally wholly disposed on and ~~attached~~ bonded directly to said absorbent body structure; and

wherein said first region of base layer material is attached bonded directly to the immediately underlying portion of said absorbent body structure in registry with the first region of base layer material in its untensioned condition and said composite region is stretchable in at least a transverse direction in use of said absorbent article.

26. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article as in claim 25, wherein said composite region of said bodyside liner is folded at a side fold line of said chassis and extends laterally back under said absorbent body structure and attaches to an opposite lateral side of said region of base layer material such that said composite region also defines said outer cover member of said chassis.

27. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article as in claim 26, wherein said composite region of said bodyside liner is folded outboard of said absorbent body structure so as to define longitudinally extending containment flaps on opposite lateral sides of said absorbent body structure.

28. (Withdrawn) The absorbent article as in claim 27, wherein said composite region of said bodyside liner is folded so as to define longitudinally extending elastomeric side panels outboard of said absorbent body structure.